

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**DEVB(W)098**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead: 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

1406

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

What is the number of cases in which the delay in excavation or road works led to permit extension in 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 respectively? What is the average duration of extension? What is the longest duration of such extension?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

The number of excavation permits extended and the average extension duration in 2006 to 2008 are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Number of excavation permits extended	1 183	995	1 166
Average extension duration (days)	52	52	49

The longest excavation permit extension is 1 097 days. This is a special case concerning a developer who has paved amenity areas fronting its property with special material, and is required under the land lease to maintain the amenity areas for six years. The developer has to carry out repair works whenever defects are identified, and to submit quarterly reports to Highways Department on the inspections and repairs undertaken. To strike a balance between ensuring that the developer fulfils its obligation under the land lease and facilitating the developer to expeditiously carry out the required repair works, without having to apply and wait for a new permit to be issued each time a defect is identified, an extension of the excavation permit is granted every six months. Despite the extended permit period, only a small portion of the amenity areas is fenced off each time when maintenance is required and disturbance to the public is kept to a minimum.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 20 March 2009